PRESSE RELEASE

The New Brunswick Arts Board Announced the 2006 Excellence Awards

(Fredericton, April 4, 2006) – The New Brunswick Arts Board (artsnb) announced the recipients of the Excellence Awards and the School of the Arts Prizes for 2006.

The winners received their award during a gala held on Monday April 3rd in the Old Government House in Fredericton. Today, the award recipients will meet the elected representatives of the province in a special ceremony at the Legislative Assembly.

THE EXCELLENCE AWARDS
The Excellence Awards in the Arts in New Brunswick are valued at $5,000 and recognize individuals that have illustrated themselves by their outstanding accomplishment and contribution to literary arts, theatre arts, cinematography arts, visual arts, fine arts, community cultural development, and teaching of the arts.

This year the *André Thaddée Bourque and Louise Manny Award for Excellence in Music* is awarded to the internationally renowned soprano, **Measha Brueggergosman**. Originally from Fredericton, Measha Brueggergosman is one of the most vibrant personalities on the world opera stage. She has a radiant voice and a stage presence beyond her years, and has performed all over the world, from the Kennedy Center in Washington to the World Expo in Japan, from Berlin to Edinburgh, and across Canada. Brueggergosman's dedication and hard work have led to international acclaim for her exquisite voice, yet she returns frequently to New Brunswick to give back to the community that nurtured her youthful talent.

Roger Vautour is the winner of the 2006 *Miller Brittain Award for Excellence in Visual Art*. Renowned painter established in Shediac, Roger Vautour was born in Cap-Pelé and grew up in Moncton. Ocean waves, schools of fish, flocks of seabirds, boats, and wharves populate the work of this seminal Acadian artist who grew up by the sea. With eighteen solo exhibitions and fifty group shows to his credit, Roger Vautour has established a deserved reputation for excellence. Many public, private, and corporate collections display his work, including that of the *Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal*. His work, while rooted in traditional Acadian folk culture, is firmly contemporary, pushing boundaries and taking the next step into the future of Acadian art.

Alisa Palmer receives the 2006 *Award for Excellence in Theatre*. Originally from Fredericton, Palmer works across the country as a director in large and small theatres, primarily focused on bringing new Canadian work to the stage. Her work stands out, marked by arresting visuals, exacting physical performances, and an audacious use of music. She is known for her ability to integrate a feminist perspective into her work without compromising artistic excellence. She is the recipient of a number of awards, including two Chalmers Awards for her outstanding contributions to the arts in Canada. She is currently resident director of the world premiere of *The Lord of the Rings* in Toronto, to date the largest theatre production ever staged.

The 2006 *Award for Excellence in Community Cultural Development* is awarded to **Charlotte Glencross**. If the Charlotte Street Arts Centre in Fredericton were a tapestry, Charlotte Glencross would be its weaver. For more than five years, she wove the elements together, designing a brilliant pattern of achievement. Under her leadership, the team that makes up Fredericton Arts and Learning raised close to a million dollars to renovate and transform a historic, long out of use school in downtown Fredericton. It now houses artists from all disciplines, giving them a place to create and exhibit their work.

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

The School of the Arts Awards, a partnership between artsnb and the Department of Wellness, Culture and Sport, valued at $3,000 each, recognize two public schools - one French and one English - which, during the year, have distinguished themselves through their efforts in encouraging development of the arts. The recipients for 2006 are Keswick Valley Memorial School near Fredericton and l'École Notre-Dame, in Notre-Dame-de-Kent

The guiding philosophy at **Keswick Valley Memorial School** is simple yet effective: to promote the importance of motivating every child to develop his or her artistic potential. This elementary and middle school, located thirty minutes west of Fredericton in Burtts Corner, has integrated art education in every aspect of school life whether it be song, dance, visual arts, or the theater. Every middle school child is provided with a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument to study for the year. Band, choral, and recorder performances by students from all grades are highlights on the school calendar. Students at Keswick Valley Memorial School view the arts as an effective way to communicate their thoughts and feelings and to express meaning in their lives, a perspective they will carry with them into their adult lives.

The elementary and middle school **Notre-Dame** in Notre-Dame de Kent goes beyond the curriculum to integrate visual arts, music, and drama in an innovative manner that involves the wider community. Every year people from the community are invited to work with students on painting, theatre, dance, and music. Another project designed to connect the students to their heritage took a unique approach. Students visited a seniors' complex whose residents shared traditional Acadian folk songs from their childhoods. The students then created sculptures to represent various aspects of the music. These sculptures were then used as props for a performance of the songs they had learned from the seniors.

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